



BACKGROUNDS



Backgrounds can be used to help fill the frame of your photo and strengthen composition. You can also use backgrounds to your advantage by making them a part of the story you are trying to tell. You can't usually leave out the background completely, but you can control it to make a strong composition and direct the viewer's eye where you want the eye to go.

Let's take a look at a variety of images so you can see how the effective use of backgrounds have been used to compliment the main subject. Pay close attention where your eye goes first.



Do you notice how the backgrounds help to make the main subject stand out and our eye goes directly to where it should go - the main subject. This is not the most interesting image tho' a good example of effective use of backgrounds and leading lines.



What a great smile this man has. Notice how your eye goes to the man's face straight away. The background with various shades of green works beautifully with the shirtless man. Do you also notice the man is off-centre, he has a bit of space to move and the leading line created by the handle of the shovel? Very nice photo composition.



Are they looking at the heavens above or is there a sea monster ready to attack? We are not quite sure but the woman does have a look of apprehension on her face. She's not looking happy. The light on the subject's bodies is beautiful and the deep aqua background makes not only the people stand out but also the white boat which adds an extra touch. The eye goes directly to the off-centre subjects. The image is well done with a strong photo composition.



The rich colors of this photo make it stunning. I love flowers but don't usually like photos of flowers. Isn't that odd? But, I do like this a lot. The green background is perfect to make the red ranunculus flower stand out as it should because this is the main subject. The photographer wants our eye to go to the red and mission accomplished. A strong photo composition is achieved with the lush green background.



To achieve an image like this with the main subject in focus and the background out of focus simply use a shallow depth of field. This means using a wide lens aperture such as 2.8, 3.5, or even 5.6. You will also want to zoom in a bit or move closer to your subject. In this case, the subject is the gorgeous flower. This is an easy technique and rather effective to achieve a strong photo composition.



I especially love this image of the man holding the lighted bulb. What's brilliant about the decision the photographer made is the man is the background while his hands and the light bulb are the focal point. Simple and stunning. The frame is filled as it should be for a simple composition. Well done by the photographer who achieved a strong photo composition.

NOTES

NOTES